

Amended

page of the web browser, an indication of bookmarks established for the web browser, and an indication of an electronic mail server.

Marked up copies of the amended claims are attached to this response in Appendix A.

Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending in this Application. Claims 1-22 were rejected by the Examiner. In addition, Claims 1, 4, 9, and 10 were objected to by the Examiner for informalities. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 4, 9, and 10 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 16 has been amended to correct a mistake in its dependency, and claim 21 has been amended to correct minor grammatical errors. Applicants have deleted claims 13 and 14, and rewritten claim 12 to incorporate the limitation of a web browser recited formerly in dependent claim 13. Claim 23 is a newly added claim and finds support in the original independent claim 12 with the added limitation of an electronic mail system as recited in dependent claim 14.

However, with respect to the Examiner's suggestion regarding changing "the" to "a" prior to the word "use" in claim 9, Applicants believe that the use of the word "the" is proper and has antecedent basis in the claim as it is referring back to the earlier phrase "the user uses." (Emphasis added). This is the "use" that is being referenced in the latter phrase.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of this Application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 19

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 as being unpatentable over Paul (U.S. Ref. 5,991,875). In making the rejection, the Examiner stated:

Paul discloses a configuration card system comprising: various audiovisual devices 10 such as a portable or desktop personal computer 12. Each of these devices may have a configuration card receiving slot 16. In each case, the configuration card receiving slot 16 is adapted to receive a configuration card. In operation, the configuration card 18 will be placed in the configuration card receiving slot 16 such that the configuration card 18 may be accessed by a processor 24 in the audiovisual device 10. The configuration card 18 may configure the audiovisual device 10 in accordance with the user's configuration preferences. Furthermore, the user may use his/her configuration card 18 in one or more of these audiovisual devices 10 to enable them and to have them boot up with the user's configuration preferences. In addition to the system configuration, the configuration card 18 may also configure access privileges of a user by providing web page blocking, thereby controlling access to various web pages (see figures 1-4; col 3, line 28+).

Claims 1, 2, and 4

At its rudimentary level, the invention described by the Paul reference is merely an electronic card which contains information on it that can be read by a card reader of a television or personal computer to make rudimentary configuration modifications to the device, such as setting screen color preferences, and which webpages may be viewed, among other things. Importantly, however, there is no disclosure in the Paul reference of a method in an information card generating computer system for initializing and distributing

information cards that contain configuration information for configuring a user computer, as is described in Applicants amended independent claim 1.

For example, Applicants amended independent claim 1 discloses:

- receiving a request for an information card from a user of a user computer;

- directing execution of a program on the user computer that collects configuration information from the user computer and sends the collected configuration information to the information card generating computer system;

- storing the configuration information on an information card;
- and

- directing the distribution of the information card to the user so that the user can use the information card to configure a computer that is capable of reading the information card.

Nowhere in the Paul reference are any of these steps taught or suggested. In fact, since all of these steps take place well before the actual use of the configured card, as they pertain to the method of generating the card itself, they would not at all be taken into consideration in the device described in the Paul reference. Therefore, Applicants amended independent claim 1 patentably distinguishable from Paul.

Applicants claim 2 and amended claim 4 depend directly from patentable amended independent claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as patentable amended independent claim 1. However, claims 2 and 4 are patentable for additional reasons notwithstanding their dependence upon Applicants patentable amended independent claim 1.

For instance, Applicants claim 2 discloses that the configuration information relates to the configuration of a web browser. Although the Paul patent does allude to the possible use of the configuration information on the

card to block webpage access, there is no teaching or suggestion that this blocking relates to the configuration of a web browser as described in Applicants claim 2. In fact, the function of blocking webpage access is often performed by firewall software, which is independent of the browser software on the computer. Therefore, Applicants dependent claim 2 is patentable for this reason in addition to being dependent upon Applicants patentable amended independent claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants amended dependent claim 4 describes a step which transfers the program that collects the configuration information from the information card generating computer system to the user computer. This step is related to the transfer of the program that is used to generate the information card to the user computer so that the card can be generated at a device connected to the user's computer. Again, since the system disclosed in the Paul reference in no way deals with the generation of the configured card itself, it could not teach or suggest the step described by Applicants amended claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants amended claim 4 is patentably distinct from the device described in the Paul reference for this additional reason as well as its dependence upon patentable amended independent claim 1.

Claims 6-10

Applicants independent claim 6 discloses a method in a computer system for configuring a browser in accordance with configuration information for a user comprising:

Receiving an indication to read an information card that contains browser configuration information for a user, the information card being initialized based on browser configuration information of a computer of the user;

In response to receiving the indication, reading the browser configuration information from the information card; and

Configuring the browser in accordance with the read browser configuration information so that the user who uses the computer system will have the browser configured like that component browser at the user's computer.

Again, with respect to the Paul reference, there is no teaching or suggestion that a **browser** is to be configured in any way. Unlike in the Paul device, the Applicants claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 6 is directed toward an invention where a user may take an information card to a computer system that accepts the information card and have the card read to configure a web browser on the machine to resemble what the users settings are on his own computer. No function similar to this is described anywhere in the Paul reference. Accordingly, Applicants independent claim 6 is patentably distinct from the Paul reference.

Applicants claim 7-10 depend directly from patentable independent claim 6 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as patentable independent claim 6.

Dependent claim 7 additionally describes a method wherein the browser configuration includes indications of website addresses. Likewise, dependent claim 8 describes a method wherein the browser configuration information includes indication of a home website. Given that the Paul reference is in no way even directed toward the configuration of a browser, Applicants dependent claims 7 and 8 are patentably distinct on their own from Paul notwithstanding their dependence on patentable independent claim 6.

Furthermore, dependent claim 9 recites the inclusion of “transmitting of information relating to the use to a central computer.” The information card in Paul is solely interested in bootup configurations of a television/pc, and nowhere in the Paul reference is it taught or suggested that a connection is made with a central computer to transmit any information relating to the use of the local computer to that central computer. Therefore, dependent claim 9 is patentably distinct from the Paul reference on its own, in addition to depending from patentable independent claim 6.

Dependent claim 10 further recites the step of “including resetting the configuration of the browser when the user stops using the browser.” As discussed, the device in Paul is not directed toward configuring a browser, and therefore would have no reason to teach or suggest the resetting of the configuration of a browser after a user is done using the computer. In fact, tellingly, the Paul reference does not teach or suggest the resetting of the browser configuration after the user is finished, as is clearly recited in Applicants dependent claim 10. Accordingly, dependent claim 10 is patentably distinct from Paul.

Claims 12 and 13

Applicants have amended claim 12 to incorporate the limitation of a web browser. Accordingly, Applicants amended independent claim 12 is patentably distinct from Paul because it recites:

A computer system for allowing access to components that are configured in accordance with the configuration of a user's computer, comprising:
a web browser;

an information card reader for reading configuration information for the web browser from an information card, the information card being initialized based on configuration information specific to a user; and

a configuration manger that directs the reading of the configuration information from the information card and that configures the web browser in accordance with the read configuration information so that a user can then use the web browser.

which is neither taught nor suggested by Paul.

Applicants have deleted claim 13.

Claims 15, 16, 18, and 19

Applicants independent claim 15 describes a method for providing access to a computer system so that a component is configured according to user specific information that includes, *inter alia*, the steps of “collecting configuration information from a computer of a user” and “storing the collected configuration information on an information card.” Critically, neither of these two steps is taught or suggested anywhere throughout the Paul reference. Indeed, the system in the Paul reference is hardly similar. The purpose behind Applicants claimed invention is to cause a remote computer to emulate the user’s own personal or business computer to facilitate his ability to use the remote computer and increase productivity. The Paul device is merely a system configuration card system that does not involve the transfer of settings from one computer to another in any form. For this reason, Applicants independent claim 15 is patentably distinct from Paul.

Claims 16, 18, and 19 depend either directly or indirectly from patentable independent claim 15 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons

as patentable independent claim 15. In addition, dependent claim 16 recites a method wherein the component is a web browser. Nowhere in the Paul reference is there any teaching or suggestion that a web browser is a component in the device. Accordingly, dependent claim 16 is patentably distinct from Paul for that reason as well as its dependence upon patentable independent claim 15.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3, 11, 14, 17, and 20-22

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 11, 14, 17, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Paul in view of Reed et al (U.S. Ref. 5,862,325). In making the rejection the Examiner stated:

Paul discloses that the configuration card configures the user preferences including accessing the web, but Paul fails to disclose or fairly suggest the preferences include electronic/voice mail, bookmark, etc.

Reed et al disclose a computer base communication system and method for using metadata defining a control structure, which uses electronic/voice mail messages, bookmark, etc. (see col. 13, lines 6-45).

In view of Reed et al's teaching, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time was made to modify the of Paul by incorporating the electronic/voice mail and bookmark capability into the user's preferences so that the user could easily access his/her electronic phone book for communicating to his/her comrades and to effectively save favorite web pages for easy access. Such modification would provide effective communications and prevent tedious writing of frequent URL addresses. Therefore, it would have been an obvious extension as taught by Paul.

As discussed, the Paul reference discloses a system configuration card that may have stored on it some information to assist a television/personal computer during a bootup sequence to set certain parameters based on the

information stored in the card. The Reed et al. reference discloses a communications system that allows for information on a consumer computer to be updated with newer, fresher, information that may automatically download from a provider computer. Applicants claimed invention, however, is directed toward a method and system for accessing a publicly accessible computer system.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner must demonstrate that there is a suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves, or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or combine the reference teachings. Furthermore, the prior art references must teach or suggest all of the claim features when combined.

Claim 3

Applicants claim 3 depends from amended independent claim 1. Neither the Paul nor Reed et al. reference suggests that a request for an information card from a user of a user computer be received, as is a clearly laid out element of Applicants amended independent claim 1. Nor is there any motivation to be found in either of the two references that would suggest combining the two to achieve such a result. Therefore, Applicants dependent claim 3 is patentable over Paul whether taken alone, or in combination with Reed et al.

Claim 11

Applicants claim 11 depends from independent claim 6. There is no teaching or suggestion that a browser is to be configured in any way.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation in the Reed et al. reference that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to think to combine the two references in order to achieve the invention as claim in Applicants independent claim 6. The Applicants claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 6 is directed toward an invention where a user may take an information card to a computer system that accepts the information card and have the card read to configure a web browser on the machine to resemble what the users settings are on his own computer. Dependent claim 11 adds the additional limitation of not displaying resources of a web page whose size is above a threshold level, and is therefore patentably distinct from Paul, whether taken alone, or in combination with Reed et al.

Claim 14

Dependent claim 14 is deleted and rewritten in independent form as newly added independent claim 23.

Claims 17 and 20

Applicants claims 17 and 20 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 15, which recites the steps of “collecting information from a computer of a user” and “storing the collected configuration information on an information card”. Nowhere in the Paul reference is there any teaching or suggestion to collect information from a user computer and to store it onto an information card. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Reed et al. reference that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Paul reference to collect configuration information from a user computer and store it

on an information card. For this reason, Applicants dependent claims 17 and 20 are therefore patentably distinct from Paul, whether taken alone, or in combination with Reed et al. for at least the same reason as patentable independent claim 15.

Claims 21 and 22

Applicants amended independent claim 21 relates generally to a computer-readable medium that can be transported by a user and read by a computer system that is accessible by multiple users. Importantly, the medium includes:

configuration information relating to configuration information of a web browser that includes an indication of the web browser, an indication of a home page of the web browser, an indication of bookmarks established for the web browser, and an indication of an electronic mail server.

Again, the system in Paul makes no reference to the configuration of a web browser, or bookmarks for the web browser, or an electronic mail server. Furthermore, the system in Reed et al. neither suggests nor teaches any like modification that one of ordinary skill in the art would make to the Paul device in order to cause it to resemble Applicants claimed invention as set forth in amended independent claim 21. At best, the system in Reed et al. speaks toward the possibility of downloading updated information from a provider computer to a consumer computer to keep the data on the consumer computer up to date, which is unlike the medium as laid out in Applicants amended independent claim 21.

Accordingly, Applicants amended independent claim 21 is patentably distinct from the Paul reference, whether taken alone or in combination with the Reed et al. reference. Moreover, claim 22 depends directly from amended independent claim 21 and is patentable for at least the same reasons as patentable amended independent claim 21.

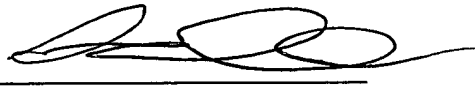
Additionally, dependent claim 22 adds the component to the computer-readable medium wherein the medium is stored on an information card. As indicated, the system in Reed et al. is concerned with a consumer computer connecting to a provider computer to download updated data. It is difficult to imagine that one of ordinary skill in the art would think to add an information card component to the system as described in Reed et al. For this additional reason, Applicants claim 22 is patentable over the Paul and Reed et al. references, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is believed that this Application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing amendment and remarks, or if prosecution of this Application could be furthered by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. A method in an information card generating computer system for initializing and distributing information cards that contain configuration information for configuring a computer of a user, the method comprising:
 - receiving a request for an information card from a user of a user computer;
 - directing [the] execution of a program on the user computer that collects configuration information from the user computer and sends the collected configuration information to the information card generating computer system;
 - storing the configuration information on an information card; and
 - directing the distribution of the information card to the user so that the user can use the information card to configure a computer that is capable of reading the information card.
4. The method of claim 1 including transferring the program that [the] collects the configuration information from the information card generating computer system to the user computer.
9. The method of claim 6 wherein the user uses the [newly] configured browser and including [the] transmitting of information relating to the use to a central computer.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein the user uses the [newly] configured browser and including resetting the configuration of the browser when the user stops using the browser.

12. A computer system for allowing access to components that are configured in accordance with the configuration of a user's computer, comprising:

a web browser [configurable component];

an information card reader for reading configuration information for the web browser [configurable component] from an information card, the information card being initialized based on configuration information specific to a user; and

a configuration manger that directs the reading of the configuration information from the information card and that configures the web browser [configurable component] in accordance with the read configuration information so that a user can then use the web browser [configurable component].

16. The method of claim 15 [14] wherein the component is a web browser.

21. A computer readable medium that can be transported by a user and read by a computer system that is accessible by multiple users, the medium containing a data structure that includes:

an identification of a user; and

configuration information relating to configuration information of a web browser that includes an indication of the web browser, an indication of a home

page of the web browser, an indication of bookmarks established for the web browser, and an indication of an electronic mail server.

Claim Additions:

23. A computer system for allowing access to components that are configured in accordance with the configuration of a user's computer, comprising:

an electronic mail system;

an information card reader for reading configuration information for the electronic mail system from an information card, the information card being initialized based on configuration information specific to a user; and

a configuration manger that directs the reading of the configuration information from the information card and that configures the electronic mail system in accordance with the read configuration information so that a user can then use the electronic mail system.

Claim Deletions:

[13. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the configurable component is a browser.]

[14. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the configurable component is an electronic mail system.]